

the Army Congressional Fellowship Program and serve as a defense fellow for Congressman Silvestre Reyes. Major Kuen transitioned to the Army house liaison division and took on the challenging responsibilities of a legislative liaison between the Army and the U.S. House of Representatives.

His dedication to duty and country are matched by his strong devotion to his family. He is married to his lovely wife Lauren and is the proud father of his newborn son Wesley.

Major Kuen is a dedicated officer who has paved a path for future leaders to follow. It is my honor to recognize his commitment to duty as he proceeds to the next chapter of his remarkable career. I wish him and his family nothing but the best in the years to come.

IN HONOR OF MS. VERA BABERS

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Vera Babers on her 100th birthday which took place on June 16, 2014. Ms. Babers has led a remarkable life that is grand in accomplishments through her hard work and dedication. I join her family, friends, and the community of Calvert, Texas in celebrating this event. I wish her more years of happiness, fulfillment, and health. Congratulations to Ms. Babers on her centennial birthday milestone.

THE RISE OF ANTI-SEMITISM AROUND THE WORLD

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, it has been said that anti-Semitism is the longest hatred in the world. And some have likened the freedom and safety of the Jewish people to "the canary in the coal mine" of a nation's religious freedom and tolerance, meaning if the Jewish population comes under attack, so too will others in time.

Speaking last December at the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission's annual Leland Award Lecture on Religious Liberty, award recipient and religious liberty champion Dr. Robert George noted "the persistence of anti-Semitism worldwide, including in the nations of Western Europe, where it again appears to be on the rise."

Dr. George cited the observations of Britain's former Chief Rabbi, Lord Jonathan Sacks, that one of the ways that hatred of the Jewish people has persisted through the ages is by "expressing and justifying itself in terms of the dominant discourses of time and place."

In the Medieval period it was justified in warped theological terms—much to my regret as a follower of Jesus. At the end of the 19th century and into the 20th century it was expressed in nationalist terms, culminating in the horror that was the Nazi-perpetrated Holocaust.

And today, Dr. George observed, "when the dominant mode of discourse is the language

of human rights, anti-Semitism is expressed by accusing Jews of violating human rights in the name of national aspirations embodied in Zionism . . ." In recent years, particularly in the months since Israel's operations in Gaza responding to Hamas' rockets, we have seen a disturbing rise in anti-Semitic incidents in the Middle East, Europe and even, I regret to say, here in the United States, particularly on college campuses.

This trend has left many Jewish students feeling intimidated and threatened, as evidenced by the recent findings of the Anti-Defamation League's (ADL) annual "Audit of anti-Semitic Incidents" for 2013 which notes that "the ADL continues to receive complaints about anti-Semitic behavior on our campuses. These incidents include threats as well as verbal and written taunts promoting anti-Semitic stereotypes or evoking disturbing Holocaust themes."

Consider the following: in a nationwide anti-Israel campaign, some pro-Palestinian student groups such as Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) have distributed "mock eviction notices" in college dormitories timed to coincide with so-called Israeli Apartheid Week. Still others have set up mock "check points."

According to Fox News, Boston's Northeastern University suspended SJP in March, 2014, "after years of alleged anti-Semitism that included repeated calls for the destruction of Israel, a 2011 disruption at a Holocaust Awareness Week event and the defacing of a statue of a Jewish donor and trustee of the university."

In some cases Jewish students who openly express their support for Israel are subjected to an increasingly hostile and intimidating environment where professors seek to promote their personal anti-Israel agenda. The local CBS affiliate in Boston reported last year that a Jewish student at Northeastern University wrote a paper arguing that Hamas was not a legitimate organization in direct response to one professor's lecture praising the terrorist organization. According to the news account, the professor instructed her to rewrite the paper.

In November 2012, two students vandalized a menorah on display in Northeastern's Krentzman Quad in Boston. On the same day, at Harvard College, fliers were distributed with phrases such as "Jews need not apply."

In 2006, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights released its report on Campus Anti-Semitism. A number of recommendations were included in the report, including that the Office of Civil Rights "conduct a public education campaign to inform college students of the rights and protections afforded to them under federal civil rights laws, including the right of Jewish students to be free from anti-Semitic harassment."

Seeing as how anti-Semitism seems to be worse today, one has to wonder if the 2006 recommendations fell on deaf ears. That is why today I am asking the Civil Rights Commission to update its 2006 report. Not only should it look at incidents since 2006 but also examine which of recommendations were implemented and, if not, why?

Perhaps we should not be surprised at the increasingly hostile campus environment given the actions taken by certain academic associations. For example, at the end of last year, the American Studies Association voted to boycott Israel's higher education institutions as

part of the International Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement. Bear in mind this is not simply individual professors expressing their political views; rather it is the country's largest organization for the study of American culture and history that is doing so.

Notably, discussion of boycotts, divestment and sanctions is largely limited to Israel, but not the world's most egregious state abusers of human rights and religious freedom, like China, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, Vietnam and Pakistan, to name a few. To the contrary, many American universities are actually pursuing deeper relationships and funding from these countries—especially with China and the Gulf States.

As Jeffrey Goldberg observed, writing in the New York Daily News last December, "The American Studies Association has never before voted to boycott the academic institutions of another country. The organization's president, Curtis Marez, an associate professor of ethnic studies at the University of California, San Diego, told The New York Times, when its reporter asked him why his group was singling out Israel, that 'one has to start somewhere.'"

Looking beyond academia we have seen other institutions and entities, including my own denomination, the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA), singling out Israel in troubling ways. In June, I took to the House floor to express my disappointment at the PCUSA's action on Israel, namely its decision to divest the denomination's stock from three American companies that do business with Israel in the West Bank. The Wall Street Journal ran a piece following the PCUSA decision that noted that the denomination's "Middle East Issues Committee sees only one Middle East issue. All 14 of the matters before it this year concerned Israel and Palestine. No Syria. No Iraq."

The obsession with Israel's alleged abuses seems almost farcical given the barbarism that has unfolded in recent months in Syria and Iraq and which threatens the very existence of ancient Christian communities. The same year PCUSA adopted its divestment policy of companies that do business with Israel, it refused to join other prominent Christian churches in signing a pledge to stand with the persecuted church in the Middle East, for fear that speaking out for oppressed religious minorities might somehow be perceived as "anti-Muslim." How the church can take such an extreme position against Israel but not join others in the Christian community in speaking out against religious persecution in the Middle East is hard to reconcile.

The situation in Europe is decidedly more troubling. While anti-Semitism has been on the rise for some time now, it has been most acutely experienced by Europe's Jewish population during this summer of protests surrounding the escalation of the war in Gaza. In recent months, we have witnessed a degree of open and, at times, violent anti-Semitism in Europe that hasn't been seen since World War II.

An August 9 USA Today article described the phenomenon this way: "Four weeks of fighting between Hamas militants and Israel fueled a rise in anti-Semitism outbursts across Europe, ranging from violent attacks to chants of 'Death to the Jews' at anti-Israel demonstrations." The article continued, "In Germany and other European countries—especially France, which has a large Jewish and